

**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

May 7, 2013

**TO:** Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission  
**FROM:** Donny Martorello, Carnivore Section Manager  
**SUBJECT: Wolf Conservation and Management Activities Update**

The following is a compilation of wolf management activities from April 28-May 4, 2013.

**REGION 1**

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**April 28-May 4**

**District 1**

Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed opportunities with a Stevens County resident who would like to start a range riding business. Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed a wolf “standoff” a woman who was jogging had with two wolves near Spirit Junction in the Smackout wolf territory on the phone. She was upset. Conflict Specialist Shepherd and Officer Weatherman discussed the issue in person with her husband. Conflict Specialist Shepherd prepared a presentation for the spring U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotments meetings. Conflict Specialist Shepherd met with the USFS and federal grazing allotment permittees in Ferry and Stevens counties separately to discuss known wolf activity, lethal removal operations, radio collar data availability, Damage Prevention Contracts, carcass removal, and the new emergency rule adopted by the Commission allowing wolves to be killed while attacking domestic animals. Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed a funding schedule that will effectively use the cost sharing of the WDFW Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement – Livestock contracts of two grazing permits across two fiscal years in combination with funds from the cattle producers involved in the Smackout range rider program. Conflict Specialist Shepherd discussed a compensation claim with a cattle producer in the Wedge. Conflict Specialist Shepherd produced maps of Smackout wolf locations and discussed them with officers throughout the week.

**REGION 2**

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**April 28- May 4**

**District 6**

**Depredation Investigation:** Biologist Heinlen assisted Officers Treser and Day investigated a depredation incident in which nine goats were killed. Necropsies found severe trauma and bite

marks from the head, down the back, to the hind quarters on each carcass. Small three-inch canine prints were located in the area as were larger (four-inch wide) prints, but due to poor substrate these larger prints were not identifiable to species. A cougar trap was set and that evening a large Bull Mastiff domestic dog was caught in the trap. Trail cameras set at the site captured hundreds of photos of three domestic dogs hanging around the area that night. The presence of the dogs explained the tracks and the severe trauma to the dead goats.



*Goats*



*Domestic dogs by the cougar trap*

**Wolf Management:** Biologist Fitkin assisted Biologist Becker and Enforcement staff in the investigation of a young calf depredation in the Methow Valley. All investigators including local sheriff personnel present agreed the evidence on site indicated that coyotes likely killed the animal in question. We found no wolf sign on site.

## **District 7**

**Wolves:** Biologist Volsen and Wolf Biologist Becker gave a presentation to the Chelan County Commissioners on wolf biology and management. Regional Director Beich and Wildlife Program Manager Monda were also in attendance. The presentation was well received with the commissioners updated on protected status, and future directions for management.

Biologist Volsen met with Hurd Ranch, LLC to discuss the current agreement. Discussions included the structure of the current agreement and what would be needed by the ranch in upcoming weeks. It was stressed that human presence amongst the cattle is one of the best possible deterrents to wolves, and that a range rider would be beneficial. The Ranch will get back to WDFW this week on a decision to meet with Conservation Northwest about possible assistance.

Reports of wolf sightings in Douglas County during April were received. The reports were submitted by individuals mostly on private property. No images or tracks accompanied the reports; therefore, they stand as unconfirmed sightings at this point.